

UPSKILL

South Dakota received Education Stabilization Funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Board of Technical Education (BoTE) was provided funding through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund to develop and cover a portion of tuition for up to 18 credit hours leading to high-quality certificates for Dislocated Workers whose jobs were impacted by COVID-19. DLR is partnering with BoTE to pay for the remaining cost per credit for participants eligible for the WIOA National Emergency Dislocated Worker Grant or the WIOA Dislocated Worker grant.

BoTE has approved online-UpSkill certificates. The certificates are aligned with labor market demands and articulate into Associate of Applied Science and bachelor's degree programs. Virtual delivery methods will allow participants throughout the state access to services and instruction regardless of the ongoing impact of COVID-19.

ELIGIBILITY

Participants must be authorized to work in the United States, reside in South Dakota, be eligible for Reemployment Assistance, and meet the eligibility identified in the [COVID-19 Dislocated Worker Grant](#) Policy 5.41 or the Dislocated Worker section of [Eligibility and Priority of Service](#) Policy 4.1. Due to the quick response needed with COVID-19 and GEER funding not all programs will be eligible for Federal Financial Aid. A formal basic skills assessment will not be required for participation in WIOA or the training. However, in compliance with WIOA, the assessment of training eligibility will be based on individual's ability to follow pre-enrollment instructions including:

- Watch Intake and Orientation Video
- Complete SDWORKS registration
- Sign and upload required forms and documents to their SDWORKS profile
- Participate in a Microsoft Teams meeting with DLR staff

Above and beyond authorization to work in the United States and Dislocated Worker status, a self-attestation will be used to verify eligibility items.

Individuals do not have an entitlement to services provided by DLR through WIOA. Resources are limited and distributed on a case-by-case basis.

SERVICES

DLR services will be available based on an individual's specific program eligibility. If requested by participant services will continue to be offered after their participation in the UpSkill certificate program. Ongoing case management and services will be provided to improve likelihood of successful outcomes.

Approved participants will be enrolled into a Non-ITA Occupational Skills Training.

FUNDING

Stipends for books, tools, and supplies may be provided to participants through the GEER funding. Additional Support Services through WIOA may be provided if determined appropriate and on a case-by-case basis (see the [Support Service](#) Policy 5.34). The DLR staff must coordinate with the technical college to ensure there is not a duplication of financial services.